

10

Remarks

The Examiner has objected to claim 52. The objection has been addressed in the instant amendment.

Claims 54 and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 second paragraph as being indefinite for lacking proper antecedent basis for the limitation "said toothed wheel". The Applicant respectively disagrees with this rejection, since both claims 54 and 55 are dependent on claim 50 and claim 50 recites "a toothed wheel" in line 4 thereof. Review and acceptance is requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 33 to 64 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the brochure "Motorized Micro Multileaf Collimator" from Liebing, Germany (hereafter referred to as Liebing).

The Applicant submits that this rejection is based on a copying error made by the Applicant in submitting the Liebing reference in the IDS filed with the request for nationalization. In particular, the first four pages of that filed document correctly correspond to the actual contents of the Liebing brochure. However those first four pages simply disclose the collimator of prior art described in the introductory portion of the specification of the instant invention. Liebing has no coupling between the tilt of the front portion of the collimator blades and the displacement of the blade from a central position thereof in order to provide better defined collimation in view of the divergence of the X-ray source. The last four pages of the Liebing reference as filed with the IDS actually correspond to an earlier version of the figures of the instant invention

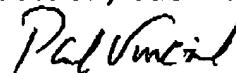
11

which were filed together with the Liebinger reference in a research request before the German Patent Office. In preparing the IDS, the four pages of these earlier figures of the instant invention were inadvertently copied together with the actual Liebinger reference and stapled thereto. The mistake went unnoticed by the Agent for the Applicant until the time at which a response to the instant Office Action was being prepared. The last four pages of the Liebinger reference as filed with the IDS therefore do not constitute prior art with respect to the instant invention and the first four pages do not anticipate the claims currently pending.

The Applicant therefore believes that the claims of record satisfy all conditions for patenting and requests passage to issuance.

No new matter has been added in this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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